

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03743 031509Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----074873 031515Z /44

O R 031441Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6257
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3743

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, UN, LE, SY, IS, NO
SUBJECT: GON REQUEST FOR INFO ON LEBANESE FORCES

1. MOD UNDERSECRETARY HOLST, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO LEBANON AND ISRAEL FOR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT UNIFIL, CONTACTED DCM AUGUST 3RD TO REQUEST INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEBANESE FORCES CURRENTLY MOVING SOUTH IN LEBANON. SPECIFICALLY HOLST REQUESTED ANY INFORMATION OR INTELLIGENCE USG MIGHT HAVE ABOUT THE CONFESSIONAL BALANCE OF THESE FORCES AND ABOUT WHO HAS TRAINED THEM.

2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, HOLST STATED THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO EVALUATE CONFLICTING LEBANESE AND ISRAELI CLAIMS AS TO LOYALTIES OR TRAINING OF THE TROOPS INVOLVED. ON THE ONE HAND THE LEBANESE WERE TELLING THE NORWEGIANS THAT THE FORCES WERE CONFESSIONALLY BALANCED WHILE THE ISRAELIS WERE TELLING THEM THAT THE FORCE IS PRIMARILY MOSLEM AND IS TRAINED BY THE SYRIANS. AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT WAS NECESSARY, HOLST UNDERScoreD IN ORDER FOR THE NORWEGIANS TO INTERVENE MOST EFFECTIVELY WITH THE ISRAELIS (BEIRUT 4384) ABOUT THE SHELLING OF THE LEBANESE FORCES BY HADDAD.
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3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE LEBANESE FORCE THAT COULD BE PASSED TO THE NORWEGIANS. PLEASE ADVISE.
LERNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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